My name is Jackie Flowers. I am the manager of Idaho Falls Power and the Board President for the Partnership for Science and Technology. I represent a group of community leaders from across Eastern Idaho, including the cities of Blackfoot, Chubbuck, Pocatello, Rexburg, and Idaho Falls.

The communities of Eastern Idaho generally support the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission. More specifically, we commend your efforts to develop a new national strategy for managing the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle, including the recommendations for seven key elements of a new strategy.

The report emphasizes the need for expertise tying directly to capabilities and infrastructure already present in our nuclear-friendly communities in Eastern Idaho. The people in our communities embrace nuclear energy as a critical part of the U.S. solution to energy independence and welcome being a part of the recommendations outlined in this report.

Eastern Idaho is home to the nation's lead nuclear laboratory as well as many nuclear and related industries, educational institutions, and waste management programs. We are also home to an educated, skilled and experienced labor force ready to go to work, particularly in the areas of advanced energy design, nuclear fuel research and development, and used fuel storage technology and research.

The list of related resources in eastern Idaho is impressive and includes:

The Idaho National Laboratory – The Nation's Lead Nuclear Laboratory. The Laboratory has distinctive research facilities, equipment and people found nowhere else in the world; a proven record of meeting milestones and safely storing and disposing nuclear materials and waste; more than 60 years of proven reactor development capability spanning decades of investment; and nuclear research campuses including:

- The Advanced Test Reactor Complex, the nation's premier resource for fuels and materials irradiation testing, nuclear safety research and nuclear isotope production;
- The Materials and Fuels Complex, which is the center of DOE's advanced nuclear fuel development initiatives and post-irradiation examination capabilities;
- The Research and Education Campus, which serves as the front door to the Laboratory and the center of the Laboratory's computing facilities, with a variety of research, administrative, educational and technical support facilities.
- Plus 20 discrete laboratories, hot cells, and assembly facilities.

Center for Advanced Energy Studies or "CAES" – a partnership between the Idaho National Laboratory and the State of Idaho through its three public research

universities: the University of Idaho, Idaho State University and Boise State University. The CAES mission is two-fold: 1) Conduct cutting-edge research to address the country's energy challenges, with emphasis on nuclear power; 2) help educate the next generation of nuclear scientists and engineers.

Other Education Institutions – include Brigham Young University-Idaho, Eastern Idaho Technology College, and the Energy Systems Technology and Education Center (ESTEC).

Nuclear Industries – Eastern Idaho is home to more than 20 businesses currently involved in the nuclear power industry. Local businesses support all aspects of the nuclear industry, from engineering and design to equipment fabrication to operations.

Nuclear Energy Workforce – The Idaho National Laboratory recognized early on the need to build the nuclear energy workforce and educate the next generation of nuclear technicians, scientists, engineers and professionals. It has built robust education programs to keep this pipeline of workers filled.

INL also promotes initiatives designed to spark students' interest in science, technology, engineering and math in elementary school, keep them engaged through junior high and high school, support two-year, four-year and advanced degree programs for them to enroll in and provide them with meaningful internship opportunities.

INL is:

- A founding member of the Idaho STEM initiative or i-STEM, a statewide effort to improve STEM education in Idaho's K-12 schools.
- A partner in the Energy Systems Technology and Education Center (ESTEC), a two-year degree program that trains technicians and operators to work in the nuclear industry and other energy fields.
- A partner in the Center for Advanced Energy Studies as outlined above.

Our Eastern Idaho communities are preparing formal comments that will be submitted to the Blue Ribbon Commission by the October 31 deadline. The commission also will likely hear directly from many of the firms mentioned who will share more detailed comments on the draft report.

I stand before you representing almost 300,000 people who want you to know we are open for business. We want to partner with you to aggressively develop solutions that bring the U.S. closer to energy independence.

Thank you for the opportunity, and we look forward to continued interactions.